

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11056

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EXDIS

PERSONAL FOR UNDER SECRETARY MAW FROM AMBASSADOR NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ID, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF US-INDONESIAN LOS TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 212225, (B) STATE 209710

1. IN MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY AND HABIB SEPT 5 FONMIN
MALIK AND INDONESIAN AMB. RUSMIN SAID GOI INTERESTED IN
FURTHER BILATERAL TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS WITH USG PRIOR
NEXT SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE (REFTELS).

2. AS BACKGROUND YOU MAY KNOW THAT STATUS OF US-
INDONESIAN BILATERALS MURKY. LAST BILATERAL IN DECEMBER
1974 NEGOTIATED BY AIR MARSHAL SOEDARMONO AND JOHN MOORE
ENDED ON HOPEFUL NOTE, WITH APPARENT AGREEMENT ON GENERAL
DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGO AND PRINCIPLE OF PASSAGE
(INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT) THROUGH STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGIC
LANES. AT GENEVA, HOWEVER, INDONESIA BACKED AWAY FROM
THIS POSITION AND JOINED PHILIPPINES, FIJI AND MARITIUS
IN SUBMITTING DRAFT ON ARCHIPELAGOES WHICH OUR DELEGATION
TERMED "AN UNACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT."

3. SOEDARMONO-MOORE TALKS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT BECAME CLEAR
INDONESIA'S SENIOR LOS NEGOTIATOR JUSTICE MINISTER MOCHTAR
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WAS NOT PREPARED TO SEE GOI GIVE CONCESSIONS TO MARITIME

NATIONS TO WIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT.
MOCHTAR WOULD PREFER WE AGREE TO ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT "IN
PRINCIPLE" LEAVING DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT LATER ON
BILATERAL BASIS.

4. THERE NO INDICATION THAT MOCHTAR HAS CHANGED HIS VIEW,
AND I DOUBT SERIOUSLY HE WILL DO SO UNTIL HE HAS ASSESSED
POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT AT NEW YORK LOS
SESSION. I THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA IS
PREPARED TO PICK UP TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WHERE WE LEFT OFF
IN DECEMBER AND AM THUS PUZZLED BY MALIK/RUSMIN APPROACHES.

5. MY VIEW OF MOCHTAR'S POSITION REINFORCED BY COMMENT HE
HAS MADE TO ME ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS THAT LOS QUES-
TIONS MUST BE APPROACHED "POLITICALLY" AND THAT US IN ERROR
IN EMPHASIZING LEGAL APPROACH.

6. I FEAR THAT ANY FURTHER BILATERALS MAY ONLY SERVE AS
FORUM FOR GOI TO ASK OUR POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO
CONCEPT, AND THAT DISCUSSIONS SOLELY WITH SOEDARMONO NOT LIKELY
TO LEAD TO MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT. GIVEN UNCERTAINTIES,
BEFORE WE MAKE ANY FURTHER MOVES, SUGGEST I MENTION RECENT
APPROACHES TO MOCHTAR AND ASK WHAT GOI MAY HAVE IN
MIND.
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